

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A recording system for recording and/or reserving a broadcast program, comprising:

means for accepting a request to record and/or reserve a broadcast program;

storage means for recording a broadcast program;

connection means for connecting with an external device;

determination means for determining whether it is possible to record a broadcast program requested to be recorded and/or reserved; and

means for issuing a recording substitution request to an external device via said connection means in response to a negative result of said determination.

2. The recording system according to claim 1, wherein said determination means generates a negative result when a remaining capacity of said storage means is not sufficient for recording a broadcast program requested to be recorded and/or reserved;

3. The recording system according to claim 1, wherein said determination means generates a negative result when a failure in said system prevents a broadcast program from being recorded in said storage means.

4. A recording substitution system for substitutionally recording a broadcast program, comprising:

connection means for connecting with an external device;

means for receiving a broadcast program;

storage means for recording a broadcast program; and

recording substitution means for responding to reception of a recording substitution request via said connection means and receiving and recording a corresponding broadcast program in said storage means.

5. The recording substitution system according to claim 4, wherein said recording substitution means can receive recording substitution requests from a plurality of external devices and records a broadcast program corresponding to a requesting origin.

6. The recording substitution system according to claim 4 further comprising user information management means for storing user information about each requesting origin, wherein said recording substitution means records a broadcast program in a format appropriate for a user attribute of the requesting origin.

7. The recording substitution system according to claim 4 further comprising user information management means for storing user information about each requesting origin, wherein said recording substitution means for obtaining advertising information appropriate for a user attribute of the requesting origin via said connection means and inserting said information in a recorded program.